

Northfield Open Space Committee

Minutes, May 20, 2014

Items in italics require action prior to next meeting.

Present: Julia Blyth, Bob Hall, Joanne McGee, Sue Ross, Joe Stacy, Jenny Tufts, Jerry Wagener, Chair. The committee welcomes new member Julia Blyth.

Absent: Mike Barry, Kate Rossiter (leave of absence), Sue Handren

The meeting opened at 7:35.

1. **Adoption of agenda:** No change

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of April 4, 2014, were approved. Jenny/Sue 3-0-1.

3. **Member comments:**

Jerry – (1) The Selectboard sent a letter to Gov. Duval requesting that the pipeline “preserve the integrity of conservation areas”. (2) Jerry commented on the letter from Leigh Youngblood of Mount Grace to the Tennessee Gas Co. The Open Space Committee members received copies. (3) Clem Clay’s position with Trust for Public Land has been eliminated. Chris LaPointe will handle real estate issues from the Boston office. *Jerry will send a note to Chris asking him to come to our June 17 meeting.*

Jenny – The Community Preservation Committee is working on a master plan of its priorities which should be finalized at its June meeting.

Bob – the Beers Plain Road Indian council site might be part of a National Military Historic Battlefield Park.

Sue – The Historical Commission has issues with the proposed pipeline crossing through historically and archeologically significant sites.

4. **Community Park discussion with Recreation Commission:** Jerry met with Bob MacComber (NMH) and David Graham Wolfe of Mount Grace about the acreage at the boat ramp. The first meeting discussed the potential properties for a community park. Jerry distributed overhead views of the area. In a meeting with Jack Spanbauer (BOS), Jack opposed the town acquiring land with a landfill because of the liability. At a subsequent meeting Jerry and Bob discussed the exclusion outlined in yellow on the map. David Graham Wolfe proposed a lease purchase arrangement for 20 years on the entire 20 acres.

The Open Space Committee decided that an ad hoc committee could investigate and pursue options on all possible land. *Jerry will recommend such to the Selectboard if the Recreation Commission concurs.* The committee discussed the membership of the committee with possible representation from the Town Highway Dept., the PTO parents, and elderly residents.

A motion was made and approved to form an ad hoc joint committee with one representative each from the Open Space Committee and the Recreation Committee and with seven members drawn from a variety of populations; vote: 7- 0. *Joe will talk to the Recreation Commission about the committee. Jerry will continue to meet with Jack about the boat landing land.*

5. **Mill Brook update:** Several members of the Open Space Committee attended the meeting with Ed and Shelby Snow which was organized by Annie Chappell. Ed approved publicizing the trails around the wetlands and was receptive to volunteers doing trail maintenance and identifying invasive plant areas. Joanne feels we should be proactive about trail activities. *Jerry will put the trails on the town trail website and plan some kiosks. Nick Fleck will tape portions of the trail to identify the route which had become either overgrown or inundated.*

6. **Trails update:** Jerry is ready to buy material for the kiosks. Deb at the library is working on a trails brochure to give to patrons. *Jerry will send a PDF file for the trail booklet to the Open Space members. Jerry will be meeting with the Conservation Committee to get approval for the kiosk and parking at King Phillip's Hill.*

7. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next meeting is Tuesday, June 17, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne McGee
Secretary